

SLASHER
OSBORNE

BUDGET DAY MASSACRE
BLEEDS THE POOREST

Full analysis >>Pages 10&11 • Protest reports >>Page 20



Socialist Worker

£1 | No 2462 | 18 July 2015 | socialistworker.co.uk

MASS STRIKE IN GREECE

WORKERS RESIST EU BLACKMAIL

**Athens worker says
unions will step up
fight against rotten
deal with Europe**

FURIOUS WORKERS across Greece were preparing to walk out against a crippling new austerity package imposed by Europe's rulers as Socialist Worker went to press.



DEFIANT: health worker Christos Arghyris

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

Christos Arghyris, a union rep at Athens' large Gennimatas hospital, spoke to Socialist Worker about the situation.

"We used our votes as a weapon against austerity," he said. "Now we're going to use the weapon of strikes."

"We've called a general strike across the public sector on Wednesday of this week, with a mass demonstration against all the new austerity measures."

"It was an easy decision. Workers are responding to the new agreement the same

>>continued on page 3

LABOUR

Labour races to right over Tory welfare attacks

INTERIM Labour leader Harriet Harman's announcement that her party will not oppose the Tories' latest attacks on welfare signals a further lurch to the right.

Harman argued it was necessary because the Labour Party lost the May general election.

>>Page 6

TUBE



**Union calls fresh
Tube strike after
total shutdown**

THE ASLEF Tube drivers' union has called a fresh 24-hour strike for 5 August.

This follows a united walkout by the Aslef, RMT, TSSA and Unite unions on Wednesday night and Thursday of last week that completely shut down the underground—giving bosses a hard slap in the face.

>>Page 8

RADICAL LEFT

**Marxism 2015
reflects new mood
for resistance**

OVER 2,700 people gathered in central London for the Marxism 2015 festival last weekend. They included striking workers, students, campaigners and socialists from across the globe.

Up to 900 people attended the opening rally.

>>Page 7

FIGHT TORY AUSTERITY



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'I'm a big fan of TOWIE...By that I mean The Only Way Is Exports'

Labour leadership candidate
Liz Kendall

'The party would urge the government to make exemptions for people with disabilities and carers in setting the welfare cap and urge the Conservatives not to go ahead with cuts'

A Labour source reveals the party's strategy. They plan to earnestly ask the Tories not do anything too nasty

'Marxist throwback'

The Sun doesn't back Jeremy Corbyn for the Labour Party leadership

'If Karen Danczuk and Sally Bercow are such independent women, why do they feed off their husbands' names?'

As opposed to their parents presumably? Dominic Lawson Daily Mail columnist and son of former Tory chancellor Nigel Lawson



Hacker exposes cops' spy deal with cybersecurity firm

COPS TRIED to buy fancy surveillance technology from cybersecurity firm Hacking Team, leaked emails show.

The Metropolitan Police Service and the National Crime Agency (NCA) both tried, and apparently failed, to cut deals.

This was shown in emails released as part of a huge cache of sensitive documents leaked from the offensive security firm by a hacker.

Staffordshire Police also enquired about the purchase of intrusive surveillance products.

In June last year, the force asked about the capabilities and cost of a piece of technology that appeared to allow police to hack into wifi and retrieve user data from connected devices.

Britain's police forces have



A STILL from a Hacking Team promotional video

only recently formed regional surveillance units with the power to carry out covert and intrusive investigations. These were previously overseen by the now-dissolved Serious Organised Crime Agency.

A leaked email from 2011 suggests that dealings with Hacking Team were affected

by concerns about the legality of the company's technology. The Met was apparently worried their equipment was "just so good that it crosses a number of issues re Lawful Inception [sic] in the UK."

Those concerns seem to have been relieved by September 2013, when the

Metropolitan Police told Hacking Team it was "ready to progress the trial" of a spying tool. A confidential "Statement of Requirements" listed everything they wanted the tool to do: it would be secretly introduced to a phone or computer operating system, and would then "receive, record and playback the 'Product' retrieved from the third party".

The tool's exact capabilities are unclear, but the deal was worth £385,000.

Hacking Team seemed to impress the NCA. A demonstration in January this year was "extremely well received and proved to be a real eye opener for what can be achieved".

A follow up email in April shows the NCA attempting to build a business case for key-stroke-logging software.

Nazis forget to protest murder case

OVER THE last three years, the British National Party (BNP) and the English Defence League (EDL) have protested in Blackpool over missing teenagers Paige Chivers and Charlene Downes.

They put the disappearances down to "Muslim grooming gangs" in the area.

BNP/EDL member Robert Ewing was last week found guilty of the murder of Paige.

The EDL and BNP did not demonstrate outside the court.



TOFF OF THE WEEK

Heythrop Hunt

- Formed in 1835, to this day the Heythrop Hunt draws a crowd in Chipping Norton.
- The area registered to the firm covers a significant part of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.
- As it points out, "Hunting people have an unjustifiable reputation for arrogance and rudeness."
- David Cameron hunts with them. He was set to repeal the ban on fox hunting this week but didn't.

● A STUDENT who stopped to give money to a homeless person was handcuffed by a police officer. George Wilson, from Wallasey, received a £5,000 pay out after police accepted he had been detained unlawfully. When Wilson denied he was behaving in a drunk and disorderly manner, the officer replied, "That's not how I'll write it up pal."



● THREE TORY MPs in a row asked George Osborne, "What recent steps [the chancellor] has taken to rebalance the economy and create a northern powerhouse?" Northern Powerhouse Minister James Wharton didn't hear the answer as he was on the Commons terrace eating lunch.

Restaurant mistake during Tube strike

THE £150-a-steak M restaurants in the City of London and Twickenham offered a "Smoked duck or pig's head starter with our compliments" at lunchtime on Thursday of last week.

"At M we would like to say DUCK YOU to the PIG-HEADED UNIONS as they irresponsibly bring London to a standstill," it declared.

"Come and relax on our 'Wimbledon Terrace' safe in the knowledge you beat the unions and their greed."

By Thursday evening, large tables were

reserved in the names of Rosa Luxemburg, Antonio Gramsci and one Mr T. Driver.

Charles Marx added a request to his online booking to "personally congratulate the owner or manager" on taking an anti-union stance.

Strangely all the tables were cancelled at the last minute.



A smug man and his £150 steaks

Break to the Liberal Democrats gently

GEORGE Osborne blocked the Lib Dems on Twitter, which was bit harsh. It also meant he will have missed the LibDemFuture article last week by Gareth Epps.

Epps is a former parliamentary candidate who sits on his party's federal policy committee. He wrote, "Demonstrating the Scottish Party's independence from London as well as high-profile roles for senior figures—Charles Kennedy, perhaps—would be a confident and positive

way to face the future." Someone should break it to them gently.

● MEANWHILE Lib Dem Voice gets to grips with the big issues facing their party, "The Social Liberal Forum Conference ended yesterday with a 90 minute hustings between Tim Farron and Norman Lamb."

"Both men turned up dressed in very similar clothes." Checked shirts, in case you were wondering.

Get in touch with Socialist Worker

Email reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Web www.socialistworker.co.uk

Facebook "Socialist Worker (Britain)"

Twitter @socialistworker



Newsdesk
020 7819 1180
Circulation
020 7819 1171



Write to
Socialist Worker
PO Box 42184
London
SW8 2WD

Daily Express in made up story shock

THE DAILY Express newspaper appears to have deleted a story suggesting that 1.5 million British Muslims support terror group Isis.

It was headlined, "Half of British Muslims 'support ISIS' as fears grow over influence of terror group".

The article went on, "HALF of Britain's three million Muslims could support the Islamic State terror group, a shocking new survey has revealed."

Except that the survey in question did not say anything of the sort.

In fact it didn't ask the religion of those surveyed at all.

Mass strikes in Greece to beat a new austerity deal

by PANOS GARGANAS in Athens

WORKERS HAD an immediate response to the Greek government's surrender to its creditors—meeting within hours to call a public sector mass strike.

They were set to strike on Wednesday of this week.

That's when parliament begins voting through the laws demanded by the European Union, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Workers plan a mass rally in front of the Greek parliament in Syntagma Square.

A meeting of around 200 public sector workers on Monday of this week, called by the Adedy union federation, decided on the strike.

The rank and file was there as well as the leaders—and in a militant mood.

This isn't just a U-turn from the government.

People voted no to an austerity agreement in the referendum—and the government agreed another that was even worse (see page 4).

Working class families face an immediate loss of income from wages and pensions, and the threat of job losses.

Sacked

And workers who were rehired or promised their jobs back after being made redundant by the previous government face being sacked again.

They include the workers at ERT, the state broadcaster, who were reinstated last month after two years under workers' control.

Their union was the first to call for the general strike, at a meeting of the Coordination Against Redundancies campaign on Friday of last week.

They are not part of Adedy, but they will join the rally on the day.

The Athens Metro workers' union

SYRIZA LEADER Alexis Tsipras speaks to a jubilant crowd in Athens after a referendum rejected austerity. Now many are furious that he has signed up to a worse deal—and are preparing to strike in response

BACK STORY

Some 61 percent of people in Greece voted no to an austerity deal on Sunday 5 July

● But the European Union, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund are demanding more cuts

● They are withholding key bailout funds unless the government pushes through a new, worse deal

● The governing left party, Syriza, has agreed to the new deal

● But furious workers have called a mass strike to fight against it

voted to join the strike. Other unions are under pressure to come out alongside what is set to be over 600,000 public and private sector workers.

The ports are already being privatised, and the agreement says the state electricity company is to be chopped up and sold off too. Workers there want to fight and were making their decision as Socialist Worker went to press.

Socialists in the unions are calling for another 48-hour strike next week, when a second round of legislation is due to be passed.

Strikes have stopped cuts and closures in a number of places. They brought the previous government

down, bringing the left to office.

Striking now can protect jobs and wages—and go beyond the compromising left that's in government to build a stronger, anti-capitalist left.

People are angry, but there's a question of who will give a lead. At first there was panic. Now the strikes and demonstrations are making opposition concrete.

They are the way to make sure the No vote will be vindicated and the deal will not pass.



What's your story?

Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Workers resist blackmail

>>continued from page one

way they responded in the week of the referendum. They are just as angry as they were when they voted no.

"Then they were angry at the blackmail from the European Union, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"Now they are angry at prime minister Alexis Tsipras for signing a deal with them—Greece's third 'memorandum' of austerity.



Christos Arghyris

"The working class in Greece is not stepping back. And that struggle will continue, with more general strikes on every day parliament

votes on the austerity measures.

"Even members of Tsipras' left wing party Syriza are saying that they said no and that they'll continue to say no.

"They're very angry as neither the EU leaders nor Tsipras took any notice of that no.

"So now they want to say no with strikes."

IN BRIEF

Israel releases Khader Adnan

PALESTINIAN hunger striker Khader Adnan was released from an Israeli prison last Sunday.

He was arrested last year and detained indefinitely without charge.

Khader was released after a 56-day hunger strike. He was rearrested on Monday of this week, then released.

Protest against el-Sisi's visit

CAMPAIGNERS are organising to protest against an official visit to Britain by Egypt's military-backed president.

Abdel Fattah el-Sisi heads Egypt's murderous regime that is carrying out execution, torture and imprisonment of any opposition figures.

egyptsolidarityinitiative.org

Ryanair strikes in Denmark

THOUSANDS OF airport workers in Denmark were set to strike from Saturday against attacks on their collective agreements.

Ryanair has tried to block the strike by running to the courts. Unions in Sweden plan to strike in solidarity.

Hungary builds migrant fence

THE Hungarian government has begun building a fence to keep out migrants.

The fence is on its southern border with Serbia.

Some 80 percent of migrants arriving in Hungary this year are from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Time to show your solidarity and support the struggle

ORDINARY PEOPLE in Britain and across the globe have taken to the streets to show solidarity with people fighting austerity in Greece. Here are some things you can do to show your support:

● SEND A message of support to strikers to adedy@adedy.gr from your union branch, campaign group or as an individual. This can help lay the basis for twinning with workplaces in the future

● USE THE online petition to raise awareness and to take a collection for Greek workers—download at bit.ly/1RwiRjA

● JOIN LOCAL demonstrations in support of the struggle in Greece. For more details go to greecesolidarity.org

● SEE IF you can get a Skype link with a Greek striker if you have a union meeting coming up. Contact the SWP for contacts on 020 7819 1170

International Socialism 147



- Movements under Tsipras
- Isis and counter-revolution
- Capitalism and extinction

Subscribe at isj.org.uk or call 020 7819 1177



New deal in Greece will make the crisis worse

Eurozone leaders have pushed Greece's government into a terrible austerity deal, writes **Dave Sewell**

THE GREEK government thought it could reason with Europe's "Institutions"—but they are out to crush and humiliate all resistance to austerity.

An agreement was finally signed after an all-night summit of eurozone prime ministers last Sunday.

It shows their determination to overturn the election of radical left party Syriza in January.

The European Union (EU), European Central Bank (ECB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) make up the Institutions. They used to be known as the Troika.

The agreement they pushed is meant to cow resistance to austerity across Europe.

Gloated

Slovakia's Labour-type finance minister Peter Kazimir gloated that the deal was "tough for Athens because it's the results of their 'Greek Spring'".

It is worse than the deal overwhelmingly rejected in Greece's referendum. The cuts and VAT hikes have grown from £5.7 billion to £9.2 billion.

And with every detail it twists the knife. The first measures, including VAT hikes and pension cuts, were to

BACK STORY

After negotiations in Brussels eurozone leaders agreed a new deal on Greece

●The Greek government was loaned up to £61 billion so it can continue to pay interest on debts

●In return it must make more cuts and extend austerity

●It demands trade unions are weakened

●A new body is to raise £35.5 billion through privatising the bits of the Greek economy that have not yet been sold off

be voted through the Greek parliament on Wednesday of this week.

A mechanism was to be put in place for "quasi-automatic spending cuts" if Greece ever fails to meet "ambitious" budget targets.

Other attacks are to follow a week later in return for a third bailout of Greece's debt.

Along with more pension cuts, civil service job cuts and attacks on workplace rights, this includes direct attacks on democracy.

Some £35 billion of state assets, from public services to islands and

historical ruins, are to be transferred to an "independent" body that can sell them off. They are dramatically undervalued.

The government will commit to "de-politicising" the administration—code for farming out its functions to unelected technocrats.

And it will agree to run new laws past the Institutions before showing them to parliament or the people.

The Institutions acknowledge that the debt might be unsustainable. They blame the Greek

government—yet the Institutions are the real problem.

Their first bailout barely even touched Greek government accounts, with more than 90 percent going straight to the private banks.

This one will go straight back to the Institutions' own accounts—but with interest paid by Greece.

The IMF has already netted a cool £1.8 billion in interest off the back of Greek workers.

Despite high hopes of debt restructuring, the agreement underlines that there can be no "haircuts"

on the debt and that Greece has an "unequivocal commitment" to pay it.

But the loan sharks' own commitments are all written in sand.

They will work towards the bailout, and think about loosening the ECB's stranglehold on Greek banks.

But they make no promises—and reserve the right to pile on more demands.

On other pages...

Failure of reformism led to Greek tragedy >>>**Page 6**

Opposition in parliament grows

OPPOSITION TO the deal deepened in Greece's parliament after the strike was announced on Monday.

Both Syriza's Left Platform and its right wing coalition partner Independent Greeks suggested they would vote no to austerity measures this week.

Previously the Independent Greeks had voted to authorise the deal and the Left Platform had been split.

Zoi Konstantopoulou

Its members had been straining to find a way of supporting the government while opposing its deal. The government

is now reliant on the votes of the hated old parties of austerity that Syriza was elected to replace.

The party's right wing—including the editors of its daily paper—are calling for an alliance with these parties and a purge of opponents of the deal.

This would include figures well beyond the Left Platform, such as the influential speaker of parliament Zoi Konstantopoulou.

Children of migrants get citizenship

LAST WEEK the Greek parliament passed a law to grant citizenship to some children of migrants born in Greece.

Though still bitterly opposed by the racists, it has been watered down to exclude around half of the 200,000 children who would originally have been legalised.

To be covered their parents must have been in Greece legally for five years by the time they were born—and they must have attended school and done well at exams.

Meanwhile the fascist Golden Dawn—which has benefitted most from the repression of migrants in Greece—has been given a publicity boost after its MPs voted no to the austerity agreement.

Greece's privately owned media refuse to broadcast the details of the organisation's trial for leading violent attacks and even murders of migrants and left wingers.

But they gave Golden Dawn leaders airtime even though this is in defiance of their bail conditions.

These media outlets credit the fascists for helping win the no vote.

The argument is nonsense—Golden Dawn was invisible during the campaign, and exit polls show many of its voters and members voted yes.

But it shows that with the mainstream parties in crisis, parts of the establishment want to keep the fascists on hand just in case.

Eurozone argue over how hard to punish Greece

EUROZONE LEADERS were panicked enough to hold a 17-hour overnight meeting to get the agreement with Greece. And the disagreements weren't all coming from Syriza.

The French government wanted to consider some debt relief to keep Greece in the eurozone's grip. Leading German politicians floated plans to "temporarily" kick it out.

Similar differences led to "a fierce altercation in the corridor" between Dutch prime minister Mark Rutte and his Italian counterpart Matteo Renzi.

Even the True Finns—a xenophobic minority party in one of the euro's smaller member states—were able to threaten to throw a spanner in the works if the deal wasn't harsh enough.

Mixed reactions on the financial markets suggested that the world's bankers weren't convinced Syriza would succeed in robbing workers on their behalf.

It's hard for Europe's rulers to agree on the details of their bank

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

DEFY EUROPE'S BOSSES—ORGANISE RESISTANCE

BOTH THE deal imposed on Greece's government and the Tories' latest budget are dripping with spite. The demands of the European Union (EU) leaders stand out for their petty details.

Will a fire sale of small islands and unique ruins make much difference to Europe's economy? Do the regulations of Greece's ferries, pharmacies and bakeries really affect "taxpayers" here? Of course not.

Each time a bailout for Greece has been announced it's been touted as a solution to its crisis. Each time it's made that crisis worse.

But as Greece's former finance minister Yannis Varoufakis was frustrated to discover, none of the eurogroup meetings talked about economics.

He spent five months making concessions to the EU loan sharks in the hope that they would compromise. But they were only interested in revenge.

Bosses and politicians across Europe have tried to put workers in their place with lies, misery, violence and fear.

The Greek ruling class failed. So the EU and the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) took over.

The vindictiveness of measures, such as the end of tax breaks for people on Greek islands, recalls what the IMF forced on Britain's Labour government in the late 1960s.

Along with deep cuts came a token charge for prescriptions.

It raised a paltry amount of cash. But it blew a hole in the principle of an NHS free at point of use that meant so much to Labour's supporters.

It was a permanent lived reminder that a government elected to defy the capitalist vultures had to go to them "cap in hand".

George Osborne's budget last

“Bosses and politicians across Europe have tried to put workers in their place

week was just as ideological.

A tax on all third-born children won't make the slightest dent in the debts ran up by the bankers' crisis.

Neither will robbing £30 a week from sick and disabled people on employment support allowance—though it will have a devastating impact to their lives.

Even some of the bosses' pet pundits have been baffled by the attacks on trade union rights the Tories want to rush through parliament before the summer break.

Strikes could be shaking the economy. But sadly there have been far from enough in recent years.

Osborne understands something the well-meaning Varoufakis didn't.

The bosses can only get out of their crisis by making the working class pay for it.

Greek workers are proving our side can kick back. Socialists everywhere should organise protests, meetings and messages of support in solidarity with them.

But best way to support them would be to join them—and strike against austerity here too.

NO WESTERN WAR IN SYRIA

IN THE same week that the Tories announced more savage cuts on ordinary people, David Cameron promised more money for the military.

The prime minister claimed this would help "destroy" Isis in Iraq and Syria. He said more weapons were needed because of the "dangerous, insecure and difficult world" we live in.

But Western governments, with their bloody wars and occupations across the Middle East, are responsible for that danger and

insecurity.

More wars and intervention will make things worse.

Isis grew out of imperialist wars in the Middle East. Western governments helped to create, fund and arm sectarian militia in Iraq because they wanted to divide and weaken the opposition to them.

It's true that Isis is a brutal sectarian organisation. But the Western leaders condemning it are hypocrites.

The atrocities perpetrated by

Isis in Syria and Iraq will never match the scale of the horrors inflicted on people in the Middle East by the West and its allies.

War brought Isis to the position it is in today. More wars won't beat it—but united struggle from below could.

Yet Cameron's only answer is bombing.

Western leaders have blood on their hands. They claim to be for "peace" and "security". But funnily enough their plans to win peace always involve more brutality.

EU leaders such as Angela Merkel (left) and Francois Hollande (right) have piled pressure on Alexis Tsipras (centre) to agree to further austerity

FIGURE IT OUT

£5.7 billion

Cuts and tax hikes that were overwhelmingly rejected in Greece's referendum

£9.2 billion

Cuts and tax hikes in the proposals Greece's government has agreed to

£1.8 billion

Interest the International Monetary Fund has already made from "bailing out" Greece

Get Socialist Worker every week

If you liked this issue of Socialist Worker, why not subscribe?

You'll receive 20 pages of news, analysis and political debate every week for just £5 a month

For more details phone 020 7819 1171 or email circ@socialistworker.co.uk

ANALYSIS

DAVE SEWELL



Failure of reformism led to Greek tragedy

THE AGREEMENT in Greece has been widely described as a coup—and in some ways it is.

Europe's rulers have used vicious financial and political blackmail to overturn the Greek people's vote against austerity.

But there was no gun to the head of prime minister Alexis Tsipras, of radical left party Syriza, when he agreed to the latest austerity deal. He asked the vultures to compromise. When they said no, he had no Plan B but surrender.

To recover from this blow we need to look honestly at how that happened. Syriza was supposed to be different to the old Labour-type social democratic parties.

Stathis Kouvelakis from Syriza's central committee debated with Alex Callinicos from the Socialist Workers Party's central committee at last week's Marxism Festival.

Stathis argued "Syriza is an anti-capitalist party. It is a party that seeks to overthrow capitalism and go to socialism."

For Stathis, Syriza's radical aims and roots in social movements set it apart from reformist parties "that seek to improve the conditions for the working class within the framework of capitalism".

It's true that Syriza was a breath of fresh air compared to the stale Labour Party and its clones. And Stathis is part of a large and outspoken left wing inside it.

They have made clear, honest and urgent criticisms of the government's strategy. They have called for an exit from the European Union (EU) instead of endless concessions to it.

But as Alex responded to Stathis, "Those kinds of criticisms are ineffective unless you act."

When the Greek parliament voted last Friday to sign off on worse austerity than Greece's referendum had just rejected, only two Syriza MPs voted no.

Another eight abstained, seven stayed home, and 15 said no while voting yes in the hope of defending the government. Members of the organised Left Platform were scattered on all sides.

Alex argued, "There should have been a concerted vote against the agreement—and then those MPs should be out on the streets calling for mass opposition."

When Syriza rose to prominence in 2012, some denounced any attempt to build other left parties. Socialists were told they would have no influence unless they joined it.

Guerrilla

But the dividing line between Syriza and social democracy isn't so clear-cut. Greece's closest equivalent to Tony Blair was a former guerrilla fighter.

Britain's Labour Party was formally for socialism until 1994, and its left wing still is. And the German SPD was Marxist in name when its MPs voted to support the First World War.

All reformists seek to use the capitalist state to bring about change. And this state has always changed them more than they have changed it.

Revolutionary socialists look instead to the struggles of the working class. This isn't out of dogmatism. It's because this is the only way to win. Workers keep the wheels of capitalism turning. Their movements can bring it to a halt.

Petros Constantinou is a leading member of the Socialist Workers Party in Greece (SEK) and an Athens councillor in the anti-capitalist front Antarsya. He said, "We don't want the left government to fall at the hands of the EU rulers."

"We celebrated the left government. But, we said, that isn't our power—and prepared people to fight back."

Greece's crisis has posed questions that only workers' control can answer. And the existence of a party arguing this was central to countering the bosses' blackmail in the referendum.

Petros said, "We're very optimistic we can fight back. And we're optimistic because we've got revolutionary organisation."

Many who once said there was no future outside Syriza now talk as if there's no future at all. And if the Greek left couldn't keep Syriza on their side, what chance does socialist Jeremy Corbyn have of reclaiming the rotten Labour Party?

The Greek crisis underlines vividly that even the best socialists can find themselves disarmed at crucial moments—unless they have a revolutionary party.

Watch the debate at youtu.be/1paxMRddOOM

Labour leadership races to right with welfare attacks

by JUDITH ORR

INTERIM Labour leader Harriet Harman's announcement that the party will not oppose the Tories' latest attacks on welfare signals a further lurch to the right.

She declared in a BBC interview that Labour wouldn't reject the Tories' plan to cap welfare payments to families and limit child tax credits to two children.

Harman argued it was necessary because they lost the May general election.

She said, "We cannot simply say to the public you were wrong at the election."

"We've got to wake up and recognise that this was not a blip—we've had a serious defeat and we must listen to why."

But those who did vote Labour wanted something different to the Tories. They didn't expect Labour to drop all opposition if it lost.

Assault

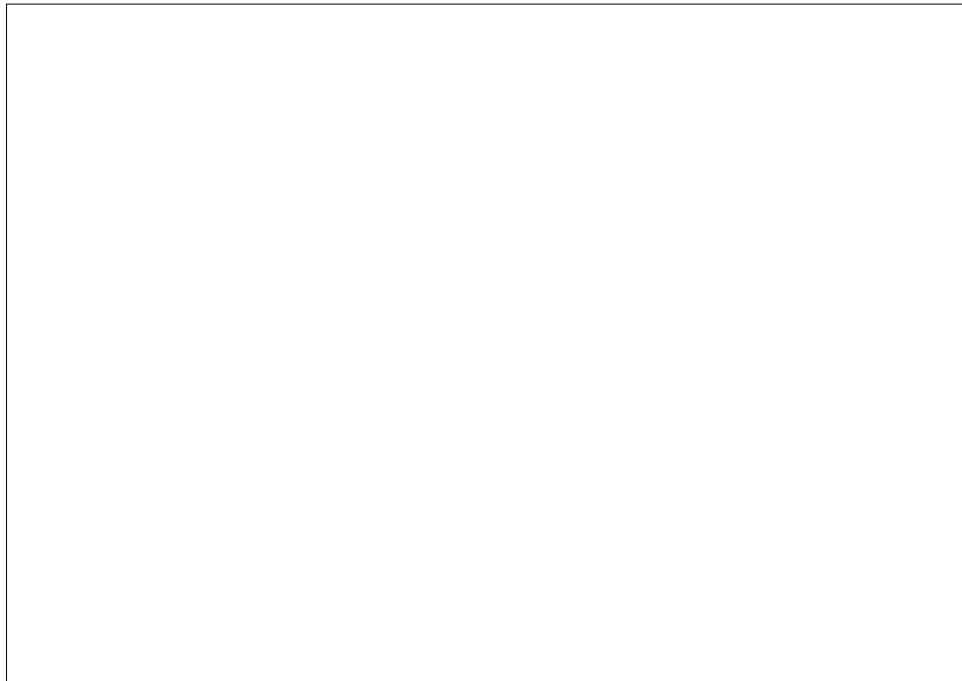
At the very least Labour voters and supporters would expect to see Labour MPs challenge the Tories' assault.

Arguments about the lessons of Labour's general election defeat have dominated its leadership election.

Yvette Cooper, Andy Burnham and Blairite Liz Kendall have disagreements.

But all want to shift Labour further away from its links to working class organisation.

But even Cooper and Burnham recognise that Harman's statement will be too much for many Labour supporters to swallow and have spoken out against it.



HARRIET HARMAN capitulates to the Tories' assault on welfare (above) **Left wing challenger Jeremy Corbyn** (left)

the government's political games when the welfare of children is at stake."

Corbyn's stand against war, racism and cuts has won many grassroots activists.

Scapegoating

Those who are sick of Labour aping the Tories on cuts and racist scapegoating are looking to his campaign as an alternative.

They see Corbyn's challenge as part of a project to reclaim Labour for the left.

The Unite union has announced that it would be recommending a vote for Corbyn.

They also reported that as many as 30,000 Unite members had signed up as registered Labour supporters.

This allows them to vote in the election.

The right wing media has gone into a panic about the fact that a left winger is gaining support.

The Sun on Sunday newspaper devoted two pages to Corbyn. It denounced him as a "dangerous Marxist throwback".

But the support Corbyn is winning and the right's scaremongering cannot hide the reality of what Harman's action means.

The leadership know just where they are taking the party—and it is not to the left.

Got a story?

Email ideas to reports@socialistworker.co.uk

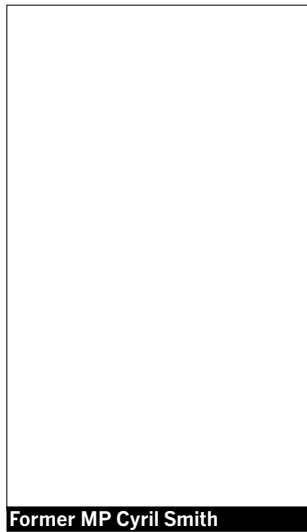
Abuse inquiry—questions that need answering

by SIMON BASKETTER

AN INQUIRY into child sex abuse in public institutions opened last week.

It will "consider the extent to which state and non-state institutions have failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation".

That covers government departments and parliament, police and prosecuting authorities, schools, care homes, health services, prisons, churches, political parties and the armed services.



Former MP Cyril Smith

That is not an exhaustive list.

But importantly it does not include investigating abuse at the Kincora Boys' Home in Northern Ireland.

The inquiry has been dogged by trouble. Lady Elizabeth Butler-Sloss lasted just six days as head of the inquiry after her links to the establishment were revealed.

Her replacement stepped down after just over a month.

Key areas the inquiry could focus on are:

●Police investigations into sex abuse by Liberal MP Cyril Smith that were

closed down by Special Branch in the 1970s.

●Serious claims of a cover-up of allegations of abuse involving the then home secretary Leon Brittan in the 1980s.

●Police failure to prosecute senior British diplomat and MI6 spook Sir Peter Hayman in 1978.

●Whether politicians abused children at the Dolphin House apartment block in London.

The security services should open their files to the inquiry.

Police block Kincora abuse revelations—socialistworker.co.uk

Marxism 2015 reflects new mood for resistance

OVER 2,700 people gathered in central London for the Marxism 2015 festival last weekend. They included striking workers, students, campaigners and socialists from across the globe.

Up to 900 people attended the opening rally. Amy Leather from the central committee of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) said, "The theme of Marxism is ideas for revolution—we need to make those ideas a reality."

Events in Greece dominated the event (see box).

Several meetings discussed struggle and austerity in Britain.

At a meeting on class Joseph Choonara argued that people feel more precarious than they are and that the working class can transform society.

A debate on why there are so few strikes in Britain looked at whether there has been a structural change in the working class. Some argued that focusing only on structural changes could miss underlying shifts in workers' mood to fight.

Bfawu union president Ian Hodson spoke in one session, along with striking Glasgow homelessness caseworkers and two sacked porters from Sotheby's.

There was a live link-up with a US McDonald's worker. Members of Glasgow socialist choir—Unite, Fight, Sing—finished the meeting with a song from the US fast food strikers' picket lines.

The Glasgow strikers raised around £1,000 for their strike fund over the weekend.

Racism

Fighting racism was a big theme. Hassan Mahamdallie spoke on the frightening rise in state Islamophobia.

Veteran anti-racist Darcus Howe launched his memoirs at the event. Diane Abbott MP discussed how to take on racism with Sabby Dhalu and Weyman Bennett from Unite Against Fascism.

It was standing room only in a meeting on how socialists should vote in the European Union referendum.

Some argued for a Yes vote because racists and Ukip are likely to dominate the No campaign.

Others said socialists shouldn't abandon the No side to the racists—and said some on the Yes side would also use racism.

A meeting on why Labour lost saw a discussion on how socialists should respond to Jeremy Corbyn's candidacy for Labour leader.

Other meetings debated the nature of Zionism, women's oppression and the Green Party. Many service users discussed their experiences at a meeting on Marxism and mental health.

Several meetings debated how



THE OPENING rally sends solidarity to Greek workers

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Marxist theory applies today. Others linked theory with struggles—such as how the school system fails children.

Socialists and activists spoke from Turkey, Bahrain, Ireland, France, Spain, Germany, Egypt, Syria and Ukraine.

A meeting on revolution and counter-revolution in Egypt grappled with the crushing of the hopes of 2011. People called for protests when Egyptian dictator El-Sisi visits Britain.

There were a number of meetings on Palestine, including one on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign.

Some 70 students met for a picnic on Friday afternoon.

Many were at Marxism for the first time, including Iona from Brighton University.

She told Socialist Worker, "I came because I want to get more politically active. There's no other event like this—I love it."

Greece—the big debate

SOCIALISTS FROM Greece spoke about the struggle there and debated the best way to take it forward.

Stathis Kouvelakis from the central committee of Syriza, the left party in government in Greece, debated Alex Callinicos on Saturday.

This followed Syriza passing an austerity deal through the Greek parliament.

Stathis argued that there had been a "failure of political strategy" in Greece.

Alex stressed that this was not the end of the battle and

said the mass mobilisation of workers pointed to the way forward.

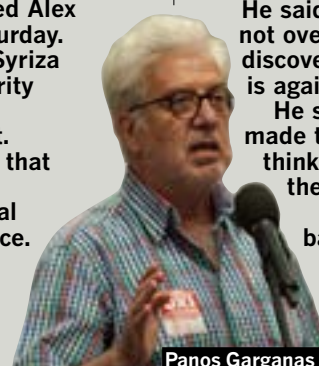
Panos Garganas, editor of the Workers' Solidarity newspaper in Greece, spoke from the floor.

He said, "The game is not over. But we have discovered the referee is against us."

He said Syriza had made the mistake of thinking it could make the bosses see reason.

"We've used the ballot box," he said.

"Now we have to use workers' power in the workplace."



Panos Garganas

MY MARXISM

"THIS IS my first time at Marxism and it's been great. You're spoilt for choice with the range of meetings."

"I voted for New Labour but I've come to see them as Red Tories. I was looking for a party that represented what I believe in—and I joined the SWP."

Nick,

Young worker, North London



"My first Marxism has been great"

"I LIKE the fact that people from a lot of different unions and backgrounds are here."

"And people aren't trying to push their opinions on you—they're trying to educate you."

Mary,

school student, Leeds

"I'M DISCOVERING more about left wing politics and the SWP in particular."

"Hopefully the energy of the event will spur me forward. It's made me feel quite invigorated and powerful."

"I was never particularly active because I never felt powerful before. Now I want to go back to work and get people there on side."

Jade,

shop worker, Lincoln



"It's made me feel powerful"

"I THOUGHT it was great. People are not talking at you but with you, and that isn't common."

"The discussion has people from all different backgrounds."

"I think it's a great festival and everybody is so friendly."

Lillie,

school student, Camden

CUSTODY DEATHS

Sean Rigg cop perjury charge

A POLICE officer has been charged with perjury over the death of Sean Rigg. Sean died in Brixton police station, south London, in 2008.

His family has forced the Crown Prosecution Service to overturn an earlier decision not to prosecute.

His sister Samantha Rigg-David told Socialist Worker, "I'm very happy with the decision to prosecute. But we'll have to wait

Sean Rigg

and see where it leads."

The charge relates to evidence sergeant Paul White gave to Sean's inquest at 2012.

White is on restricted duties, but he has not been suspended.

The inquest found that police used an "unsuitable level" of force on Sean when they took him into custody.

White claimed that he had attended to Sean while he was being held in a police van.

But CCTV footage showed that this could not be true.

White and another officer were arrested for perverting the course of justice after the inquest, but were not charged.

The CPS said it could not prove that White was lying, rather than being mistaken about what had happened.

White is due to appear at Westminster Magistrates Court on 8 September.

Justice for Sheku Bayoh

Campaign launch and Deaths in Custody conference

Saturday 25 July, 11am–5pm

The Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4HZ

Free and open to all
Visit sacc.org/sheku or call 07518 947 204

Union calls fresh strike in fight with Tube bosses

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

THE ASLEF Tube drivers' union has called a fresh 24-hour strike for 5 August. This follows a united walkout by the Aslef, RMT, TSSA and Unite unions on Wednesday night and Thursday of last week that completely shut down the underground.

Organised workers gave Tory London mayor Boris Johnson and Transport for London (TfL) bosses a hard slap in the face.

"We've shown we can give them a bloody nose," RMT union rep and driver Tracy told Socialist Worker on the Brixton picket line in south London.

Driver and Aslef union rep Eddie agreed. "When we're united, they can't beat that," he said.

Almost 1,500 traffic jams caused 761 miles of tailbacks. Bus stop queues were hundreds of people long in some places. And trains were delayed and crammed.

Johnson and the Tories had to drop their usual crap about strikes being ineffective. They were also quiet about ballot thresholds—because all the unions' ballots blew them out of the water.

They want to focus the debate around money, to mask the new rosters they have imposed on workers for the Night Tube in September.

TfL bosses also want to divert attention from the £4.2 billion cuts they're driving through.

Workers are concerned about the effect working unlimited weekend and night shifts on the Night Tube would have on them.

Morning

Eddie explained, "I'd be getting home for 10.30am in the morning on a Sunday. I wouldn't get to see my kids, and my wife would be setting off for work early the next morning."

Trade unionists brought banners from the local branches of Unison, UCU and NUT unions. The scene was replicated across London as strikers organised lively pickets.

There was live banjo and guitar music at Leytonstone in east London. And more than 30 workers from RMT, TSSA and Aslef picketed the Arncliffe depot in north London.

Many of the strikers there said they had worked on the Tube for over 20 years—and said bosses hadn't properly thought out their Night Tube plans.

RMT rep Wayne told Socialist Worker, "There are health and safety issues that haven't been thought through. What about the fatigue for those driving home at the end of long night shifts?"

Under Johnson there have been 20 strikes in London transport.



STRIKERS AND their supporters by Paddington station in central London

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

First Great Western rail walkout hit bosses hard

SOME 2,000 First Great Western (FGW) rail workers in the RMT union struck for 48 hours last week.

Bosses have refused to give assurances on jobs, services and safety on new intercity trains the company is introducing.

The walkout had a massive impact. Bristol station worker Nathan told Socialist Worker, "Only a fraction of the services we'd normally have actually ran."

The union said bosses' claim to be running 60 percent of normal services was "pure fiction".

Nathan questioned how safe the service was during the walkout. "You had untrained managers taking out the scab trains," he said.

Workers are fighting to defend safety-critical jobs in stations and on trains.

These cuts are being pushed across the rail industry to squeeze costs and weaken union organisation.

But Nathan said there are an



Strikers in Plymouth

"unprecedented" number of disputes hitting train operators across Britain. And the Tories are a key factor.

He said, "They want to emulate Thatcher and take out the union."

"But now CrossCountry trains are balloting over pay. There are disputes at Northern, Southern and Scotrail."

"I hope we can start to coordinate these strikes and all come out for an extended period together."

Nathan is a pseudonym.



On other pages...

Budget day protests say, 'Oxi to Osborne!' >>Page 20

Greek vote shows up the system

THE GREEK no vote is a serious setback for the neoliberal agenda.

Could this be Europe's 2008 Lehman Brothers moment, when a chain reaction of banking collapse was only prevented by massive state intervention?

The GDP of Greece is only 1.5 percent of that of the European Union. If it proved to be "too big to fail" the ineffectiveness of recent regulation will be exposed.

Greek workers need to keep up their heroic resistance.

Dermot Smyth
Chesterfield

● THIS IS no game. It's clear that the European Union will try the most brutal and underhand means to destroy this rebellion.

I hope that people in this country at last realise that austerity is simply a class deception and weapon.

The People's Assembly protest on 20 June must be followed up.

That is our best support for the Greeks.

Richard Banker
on Facebook

● IT WAS so cheering to see the crowds in Greece after the No vote won.

I worried people might buckle under the threats from the bankers and fear that if they voted no things would get even worse.

It shows what is possible if, even in such circumstances, people can still stand together and resist.

Solidarity!

Natasha Binns
Brighton

Young and old unite to stop pensions swindle

I WENT to my first National Pensioners Parliament in Blackpool recently.

This week the Tory chancellor will make Blackpool the deprivation capital of Britain.

Each person there is set to lose £836 on average because of the £12 billion welfare cuts.

The National Pensioners Convention has called for "intergenerational campaigning" and direct action if needed.

The propaganda of bulging pension pots hides the fact that the average state pension is a third of average earnings.

Some will have to work for 35 years to get a full state pension. Many will never achieve that.

Many face being swindled out of a state pension.

We need young and old to fight for justice together.

Joel Hirsch
East London

Tube strike wins support in Athens

THE INSURGENT Athens Metro workers express their solidarity to the striking staff of the London Underground.

We recently occupied our bosses' office because we want to throw out the corrupt management of the Athens Metro company.

Many workers had placed great hopes in the left government to at least

limit bosses' oppression in the workplace. But in the workplaces it was like no election had taken place.

That's why we occupied, and that's why there was an overwhelming vote in the

recent referendum.

Read my report at maxhtikh.blogspot.gr—and innovate militantly!

Nikos Sbarous

Rail engineer and senior safety union rep, Athens Metro



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Just a thought...

No support during night

AUSTERITY causes more people to suffer mental distress.

I work nights in the NHS. It is a regular occurrence that there are no beds in mental health hospitals in all of England at night.

Malcolm Jones
by email

Rage against Tory austerity

GARRY Johnson is a punk poet whose poems and song lyrics have a raging social conscience.

He twice "died" in the operating theatre last year. But he came out of retirement after the general election to record the protest single United Against Austerity.

He will risk his life to appear at the Rebellion festival in Blackpool on 9 August against doctors' advice.

Emma Rule
by email

Posters for empowerment

THE SEE Red Women's Workshop provided posters, illustrations, and printing for the Women's Liberation Movement.

Its aim was to challenge negative stereotypes of women and promote empowerment.

A selection of posters is on display at Huddersfield Art Gallery in West Yorkshire until 19 September.

John Appleyard
West Yorkshire

Council allows fascist march

A LITTLE over a month ago nine Christians in the US state of South Carolina were murdered by a self-confessed white supremacist.

The National Front in Britain celebrated this on Facebook. The group West Yorkshire National Front posted offensive material.

Christians Against Extremism (CAGE) express their outrage at Wakefield Council's decision to allow the National Front to march and rally through Wakefield on 25 July.

At the same time a "We Are Wakefield" celebration of tolerance and peace has been banned.

Louis Kasatkin
Convenor, CAGE



Striking Metro workers in Athens burned notices ordering them back to work in 2013

Press and pundits focused on George Osborne's minimum wage rise but missed the real story of the budget—the biggest assault on working class living standards for a generation. Nick Clark examines the budget

GEORGE Osborne's budget is a plan to steal money from the poor to give to the rich.

People in work will be worse off. Benefit claimants will have more money snatched from them.

The last bit of money to support students going to university will go. But tax cuts will make the bosses richer.

Yet people took to the streets across Britain to demonstrate as the budget was unveiled on Wednesday of last week.

Osborne stole a slogan from the TUC—"Britain deserves a pay rise"—to announce a "compulsory living wage".

It's a con.

Osborne's "living wage" won't start until next April and it will be £7.20 an hour. Bosses won't have to pay it to any worker aged 25 and under.

And pay rises for public sector workers have been frozen at 1 per cent for another four years.

Yet again they face attacks on jobs and pay.

The actual living wage—the one set by the Living Wage Foundation—is currently £7.85 and £9.15 in London. It says this is the bare minimum someone working full time can realistically live on.

This assumes people are receiving tax credits and in-work benefits. Without them, the current living wage would be nearer £11 an hour.

Yet Osborne wants to freeze working age benefits and tax credits for four years.

And he has cut the household benefit cap—the total amount an entire household can receive in benefits—from £26,000 to £20,000. It will go down to £23,000 in London.

Protester Helen told Socialist Worker, "I'm not the sort of person



who protests. But the austerity measures target the poorest people. A lot of people feel the same.

"I want to stand up and be counted. I think we should storm parliament. There are some things worth being arrested for."

Tax credits came in for a battering. A single parent with two children working 16 hours a week on the minimum wage will gain just over £400 from the new "living wage". But they will lose £860 from tax credit changes in 2016-17.

Some 13 million families will lose £260 a year from tax and benefits changes—three million are likely to lose £1,000 from tax credit changes.

Earners

A family with one earner on average wages will lose more than £2,000.

And Osborne has changed the rules so that money can be clawed back sooner.

Currently anyone receiving tax credits gets money deducted from elsewhere once those credits exceed £6,420. Osborne's budget cut this to £3,850.

The "income rise disregard" is a buffer designed to stop families having their credits clawed back. This will be slashed from £5,000 to £2,000.

On top of that new claimants won't be able to claim the family element of tax credits after April

2017. And child tax credits, worth £2,780 per child, will be limited to two children.

Protester Sharri told Socialist Worker, "I'm really angry about the attack on child tax credit."

"My mum could not have survived without them."

"One of my friends is a single mother. It'll be much harder for her to cope now. It's made me think I don't want to have children."

Meanwhile social housing tenants who earn more than £30,000 will be forced to pay full market rent. In London that's £40,000 a year.

Yet Osborne had big giveaways for the rich.

He will raise the threshold for the 40p tax rate to £43,000 next year. Put simply this gives more well-off people a tax cut.

The income tax personal allowance will rise to £11,000 from next year—disproportionately benefiting the rich.

So in the financial year starting in 2020, if you earn £25,000 your income tax will fall by £380. But for someone earning £60,000, it will fall by £1,903.

Meanwhile, the Tories are cutting corporation tax again—to 19 percent in 2017 and to 18 percent in 2020. This tax on profits was 52 percent under Margaret Thatcher.

Other perks include raising the inheritance tax threshold to allow homes worth £1 million to be passed on tax-free.

And Osborne cut the bank levy—giving more money to the bankers.

For more on budget day protests see page 20



SLASH OSBORNE



BUDGET DAY



A real Northern Powerhouse—Budget Day protest in Bradford

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY



OSBORNE

MASSACRE

Hardest hit won't take another punch

THE TORIES want to cut a staggering £46.5 billion from welfare over the next five years.

Some £640 million will be cut from Employment and Support Allowance.

New claimants in the "Work Related Activity Group" of disabled people will now get the same as Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)—a 30 percent cut.

The Department for Work and Pensions has defined people in this group as being capable of work in the future. Disabilities bring various extra costs that vulnerable people will now find it even harder to cope with.

Lesley Sandland is a disabled claimant living near Huntingdon. She told Socialist Worker, "I am so angry with the Tory government for playing with people's emotions over the budget. Every one of us who has a disability feels anxious."

"Some are increasingly depressed and a few feel on the edge of suicide."

But disabled people greeted the budget with resistance and a protest at Downing Street (see page 20).

Paula Peters from Disabled People Against Cuts announced, "We say to George Osborne, you know where you can stick your budget. We're not gonna take any more cuts. David Cameron, get used to seeing us—we're fighting back."



Disabled activists protest at parliament last week (above) Paula Peters (below)



War declared on young people

THE TORIES want to use the budget to put the final nail in the coffin of free education. A loan will replace the student maintenance grant.

The means-tested grant to help with students' living costs is worth up to £3,387 a year. Any student from a household with an income of less than £42,000 is entitled to at least something.

Osborne's cut affects all but those from the most well-off families.

Noga is a student from Sussex University. She told Socialist Worker, "They want to stop poor people going to university. Already people can't afford the rents."

The budget didn't do much for young people not at university either. They won't get the new "living wage". And most people under 21 will no longer be eligible to claim housing benefit.

Student Deborah had to work full time while studying because she couldn't afford her rent.

She told Socialist Worker, "It's on minimum wage with illegal hours. We have to work through our breaks, but we still don't get paid for them."

And Osborne's "youth obligation" will impose an "intensive regime" on 18 to 21 year olds on Universal Credit from April 2017. This could include forcing them on mandatory work placements.

As Deborah put it, "The Tories are attacking 18 to 25 year olds and I don't know why."

Are we all in the same boat? You can bet that the rich at the Henley Regatta will not bear any of the Tories' "hard choices"

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7819 1170 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

Does the media control our minds?

Wed 22 Jul, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BOLTON

Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?

Wed 22 Jul, 6.30pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

BRADFORD

Greece—the battle against the bankers

Wed 22 Jul, 7pm,
Equity Centre,
Perkin House,
82 Grattan Rd, BD1 2LU

BRISTOL: NORTH

Mass movements—is there a need for a political party?

Thu 23 Jul, 7.30pm,
5th Floor, The Canteen,
Hamilton House,
80 Stokes Croft, BS1 3QY

CAMBRIDGE

Is Marxism still relevant today?

Thu 23 Jul, 7.30pm,
Shanghai Family Restaurant,
39 Burleigh St,
CB1 1DG

CARDIFF

70 years on—how the NHS was won and how can we defend it?

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace, CF24 4HX

CHESTERFIELD

Why does child abuse happen?

Thu 23 Jul, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library (please enter via Cafe Browser),
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QL

COLCHESTER

Organising against austerity

Tue 21 Jul, 7.30pm,
The Odd One Out,
28 Mersea Rd,
CO2 7ET

COVENTRY

Fighting Islamophobia—the lessons from France and Britain

Wed 22 July, 7.30pm,
West Indian Centre,
159 Spon St, CV1 3BB

DERBY

Does the media control our minds?

Thu 23 Jul, 7pm,
West End Community Centre
(next to Britannia Mill),
Mackworth Rd, DE22 3BL

DONCASTER

What do socialists say about animal rights?

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,
Women's Centre,
21 Cleveland St, DN1 3EH

DUNDEE

A film showing of Pride

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd, DD1 1LL

EDINBURGH

Syriza and Eurocommunism

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria Terrace, EH1 2JL

EXETER

Why are there so many wars in the Middle East?

Thu 30 Jul, 7pm,
New Horizon Cafe,
47 Longbrook St,
EX4 6AW

GLASGOW: NORTH

Islamophobia today—racism and the politics of fear

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,
Posh Nosh Cafe (near Georges
Cross Underground),
86 Maryhill Rd,
G20 7QB

SOCIALIST WORKER BRANCH MEETINGS

David Cameron and German chancellor Angela Merkel

In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?

ABERDEEN

Thu 23 Jul, 7pm,
The Snug,
Ma Cameron's,
6-8 Little Belmont St,
AB10 1JG

BARNSELEY

Thu 23 Jul, 6.30pm,
YMCA,
Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BRIGHTON

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

BRISTOL: SOUTH

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,
YHA,
14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

DUDLEY

Wed 22 Jul, 8pm,
The What Centre,
23 Coventry St,
Stourbridge (town centre),
DY8 1EP

LANCASTER

Thu 23 Jul, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House
Meeting House Lane,
LA1 1TX

LONDON: BRIXTON

Wed 22 Jul, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd, SW2 1EP

LONDON: SOUTHWARK

Thu 23 July, 7pm,
Snug Room, The Grand Union,
26 Camberwell Grove (off
Camberwell Church St),
SE5 8RE

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Wed 22 Jul, 7pm,
Oxford House, Derbyshire St
(opp Bethnal Green Rd
Tesco), E2 6HG

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,
Quaker Meeting House,
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe
St), E17 4QU

PLYMOUTH

Thu 30 Jul, 7pm,
Quaker House,
74 Mutley Plain, PL4 6LF

ST ALBANS

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,
Upstairs Trinity Church Hall,
1 Beaconsfield Rd (near
St Albans City station),
AL1 3RD

LONDON: KINGSTON

A Marxist history of sexuality

Wed 22 Jul, 7pm,
Kingston Quaker Centre,
Fairfield East, KT1 2PT

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Is Podemos the future for the left?

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community
and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd (near
Greenwich main line and
DLR Station), SE10 8JA

LONDON: NEWHAM

Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?

Wed 22 Jul, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next
to Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP

LONDON: TOTTENHAM

Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,
Kitabevi Cafe,
410 Tottenham High Rd,
N17 9JB

MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

What do we mean by revolution?

Wed 22 Jul, 7pm,
Manchester Refugee
Support Network,
129 Princess Rd, Moss Side,
M14 4RB

MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

Water protests, gay marriage and crisis in the church—why is Ireland changing?

Thu 23 Jul, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

SCARBOROUGH

What is socialism and how can we achieve it?

Thu 23 Jul, 7pm,
Small Meeting Room,
Scarborough Central Library,
Vernon Rd, YO11 2NN

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Women, revolution and the politics of liberation

Thu 23 Jul, 7.30pm,
Central United Reformed
Church, 60 Norfolk St (near
the Crucible theatre), S1 2JB

SOUTHAMPTON

Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,
High St Cafe,
153 High St, SO14 2BT

SWANSEA

Immigration—the myths used to divide us

Thu 23 Jul, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd, SA2 0BP

WIGAN

Why are there so many wars in the Middle East?

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,
Little Fifteen Pub,
17-19 Wallgate,
(opposite Wigan Post Office),
WN1 1LD

WOLVERHAMPTON

AND WALSALL

The role of the revolutionary paper—why we sell Socialist Worker

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,
The Irish Mbassy,
Lichfield St, WV1 1EQ

YORK

How left wing is anarchism?

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

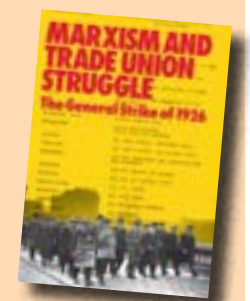
DORSET

Greece—the end of the line for the EU?

Sat 1 Aug, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club (opposite
County Hall),
Colliton Park, Dorchester
DT1 1XJ.

Organised by Dorset Socialists

BOOKMARKS the socialist bookshop



Marxism and Trade Union Struggle—the General Strike of 1926
by Donny Gluckstein
and Tony Cliff, £9.99



Them and Us—Fighting the class war 1910-1939
by John Newsinger,
£7.99

bookmarksbookshop.co.uk

Ant-Man is an astonishing tale to banish superhero fatigue

Marvel’s latest film focuses on one of its smallest characters, but easily stands alongside blockbusters in an overcrowded field, writes **Sasha Simic**

THE LATEST Marvel comic book superhero to get their own film is actually one of the company’s oldest characters.

Ant-Man made his first appearance in the Tales to Astonish comic in September 1962.

He was scientist Hank Pym, who’d invented a chemical that allowed him to shrink to the size of an ant.

This film is one of Marvel’s best, despite the character’s erratic history in print. The company always had trouble making this power interesting.

When it launched the Avengers superhero comic he was one of the original team—alongside the Hulk, Iron Man and Thor. The enormously successful film series has so far not felt the need to include him.

The character underwent numerous revamps. He stopped being small and became Giant Man in 1963, before long changing his name to Goliath.

Shrunk

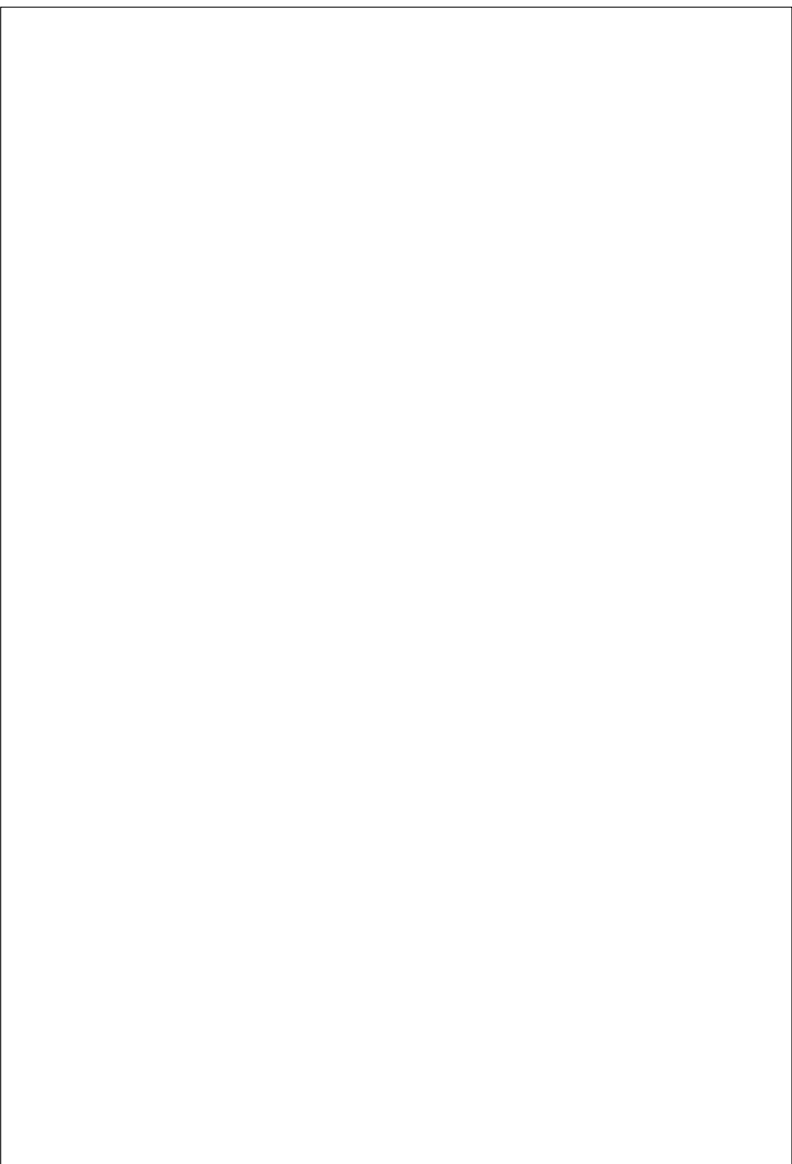
He shrunk again to become Yellow Jacket in 1968 and finally reverted to Ant-Man in 1973. Six years later Pym retired and Scott Lang became Ant-Man.

In the film Scott Lang (Paul Rudd) is a convicted burglar who redeems himself when he’s chosen by Hank Pym (Michael Douglas), the original Ant-Man, to replace him.

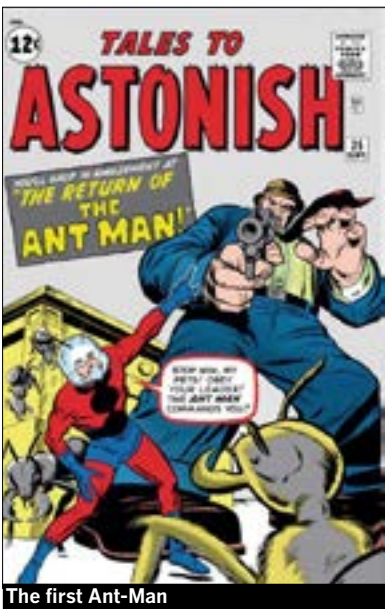
They team up to stop evil corporate Boss Darren Cross (Corey Stoll) from selling Pym’s shrinking technology to the military.

The film manages to integrate over 50 years of comicbook continuity into a film that’s fun without being disparaging to the source material.

There’s a nice understated class



PAUL RUDD as Scott Lang, thief turned shrinking superhero



The first Ant-Man

dimension to the plot.

Scott’s friends from his prison days help him fight big business and a bumbling police force. Michael Pena as Luis, one of his friends, steals every scene he’s in.

The script is funny and the special effects are—very—special with nods to classic science fiction films The Incredible Shrinking Man and Fantastic Voyage.

The sequence where the tiny Ant-Man and supervillain Yellow Jacket fight on a toy railway track is brilliant.

Don’t let “superhero fatigue” stop you seeing this film—tales to astonish indeed.

Ant-Man
Directed by Peyton Reed
Marvel Studios
Out now

Piecing together an intimate image of music’s icons

PHOTOGRAPHY

CHALKIE DAVIES: THE NME YEARS

National Museum Cardiff,
CF10 3NP.
Free entry.
Until 6 September.
museumwales.ac.uk

WHEN music photographer Chalkie Davies left for the US in 1985, he locked away his portfolio.

Davies made his name as a photographer for the NME music paper, but most of the images in the

portfolio had never been published.

Now we’re finally able to see a selection of the 43,000 negatives in the National Museum’s new exhibition.

Davies photographed David Bowie’s last Ziggy Stardust show in 1973.

The exhibition isn’t just for those interested in 1970s music.

It’s an interesting snapshot at how “celebrity” is captured and presented.

What’s impressive here is the way Davies focuses

on intimate, seemingly everyday settings.

He wanted to show the musicians relaxed, without their celebrity persona. The result can be captivating, with images of that draw you in.

Yet the shots were actually all contrived, which does sometimes come through.

So we see singer Chrissie Hynde on a fairground carousel.

The photos of punk band The Clash seem more “authentic”—but perhaps both are false.



The Clash head home on the Tube

EXHIBITION



Modern Art 1, 1996

ARTIST ROOMS: ROY LICHTENSTEIN

Modern One (Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art),
Edinburgh. Free
Until 10 January 2016.
Free nationalgalleries.org

THIS EXHIBITION of pop artist Roy Lichtenstein’s work is mostly made up of 16 prints he made in the decade before his death in 1997.

It also includes a couple of the images that made him famous—enlarged copies of comic strip panels and adverts, such as In The Car.

Lichtenstein was one of the most prominent artists in the 1950s and 1960s American Pop Art movement.

His series Reflections, reproduces some of his earlier panels, but now sections are blanked out as if by glare on a reflection.

The prints Modern Art use his earlier style, but is not based on existing images.

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks,
the socialist bookshop

- 1 **Fighting on All Fronts—Popular Resistance in the Second World War**
Edited by Donny Gluckstein
- 2 **Them and Us—Fighting the Class War, 1910-1939**
John Newsinger
- 3 **Return—A Palestinian Memoir**
Ghada Karmi
- 4 **The Deeper Genome—Why there is more to the human genome than meets the eye**
John Parrington
- 5 **NHS for Sale—Myths, Lies and Deception**
Jacky Davies

Phone 020 7637 1848
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk
Why not visit the shop
at 1 Bloomsbury Street,
London WC1B 3QE

Protests against the imperial domination of China sparked a movement that led to general strikes 90 years ago.

It grew into a revolution that showed the potential of ordinary people to transform themselves and run society.

But tragically it also showed that, without the right organisation and leadership, the ruling class will drown revolutions in blood.

The more profitable parts of China were under the control of various imperialist powers in the early years of the 20th century.

They had opened China up to imports, wrecking much of its own industry. The upheavals this caused led to the collapse of the government in 1911. Outside the imperial concessions, competing warlords dominated the country.

The revolution began as a nationalist uprising—students were protesting against Japanese colonialism in 1919—but it grew into something bigger.

Tens of thousands of workers in Shanghai struck after police arrested hundreds of students. Workers formed unions and struck for better pay and conditions.

The 1917 Russian Revolution was a major inspiration for the movement. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was founded in 1921. Chen Duxiu was elected leader.

As strikes spread to Chinese-owned firms in the early 1920s the warlords fought back. Unions and the CCP were effectively illegal by the end of 1923.

Hatred of imperialism boosted the nationalist Guomindang party. It ran the southern city of Guangzhou. The Guomindang said it would take on the imperialists, though its leaders were a mix of warlords, intellectuals and middle class people.

The CCP worked with the bigger party. By 1923 it had given up much of its independence to act as a left current in the Guomindang.

Workers in Shanghai struck for better pay and against brutal foremen in 1925. Police killed 12 people on a protest on 30 May and the movement became a general strike.

The walkouts spread beyond Shanghai. One researcher recorded 135 strikes directly linked to the 30 May killings. They involved nearly 400,000 workers. The CCP grew rapidly.

On 23 June British and French forces opened fire on a march of students, workers and military cadets in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province. They killed 52.

Hong Kong had been part of Guangdong until the British Empire seized it. Workers there launched a general strike and a boycott of British goods.

Some 250,000 workers joined the walkout and the



STRIKERS RALLY during the 1925 Hong Kong general strike

A FIGHT FOR FREEDOM IN CHINA

A revolutionary upsurge shook China from 1925 to 1927, showing that even in a poor country workers can challenge capitalism and imperialism, writes Sadie Robinson

city was brought to a standstill. More than 100,000 workers left and moved to Guangdong.

Harold Isaacs described how the workers organised in his book, *The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution*.

He wrote. “Every 50 strikers named a representative to a strikers’ delegates’ conference, which in turn named 13 men to serve as an executive committee.

“Under the auspices of this body, actually the first embryo of workers’ power in China, a



A foreign observer called the strike ‘war on Hong Kong and Great Britain’

hospital and 17 schools for men and women workers and for their children were established and maintained.”

Workers ran Guangdong. Pickets patrolled roads to inspect cargo. Peasants patrolled the coasts and ports. A strikers’ court doled out punishments for anyone breaching the action.

One foreign observer wrote that the boycott “must be regarded as a war on Hong Kong and Great Britain”.

Hong Kong’s name means

“fragrant harbour”, but as the rubbish piled up strikers called it Ch’oukang, meaning stinking harbour.

The Guomindang used workers’ action to consolidate its position. Its forces took over more of southern China and at the end of June 1925 it declared a new National Government.

But it was scared by the growing strength and independence of the CCP.

RUSSIAN leader Joseph Stalin pressured the Chinese communists to compromise with the nationalists.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 had become isolated and Stalin was leading a counter-revolution.

His supporters believed that workers could not lead an independent fight against the capitalists and imperialists, but had to rely on alliances across classes.

In China this meant following the “progressive” nationalist Guomindang.

The scale of workers’ struggle meant the Guomindang used revolutionary rhetoric. But it was never socialist. It aimed to use the revolt to do a deal with the imperialist powers.

Its leader, Chiang Kai-shek, came from a comfortable merchant family. And from the start, some members openly organised against the communists.

As the struggle continued throughout 1925, workers struck at Chinese-owned firms as well as foreign ones.

Chinese liberals who had celebrated the action now talked of its “foolish excesses”. Chinese bosses joined together with foreign ones to organise against the workers.

The struggle exposed the fact that the key divide in society is class, not nationality.

As Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky put it, “Everything that brings the oppressed and exploited mass of toilers to their feet inevitably pushes the national bourgeoisie into an open bloc with the imperialists.”

Chen Duxiu and others in the CCP leadership repeatedly called for them to withdraw from the Guomindang, but bowed to the greater experience of the Russian party.

Stalin’s position won out—spelling disaster for the revolution.

In March 1926 Chiang Kai-shek moved to control the workers’ movement. He arrested political workers and raided the Guangdong-Hong Kong Strike Committee. All arms were seized.

Stalin claimed the story was a lie put about by the British.

In May new rules limited CCP influence in the Guomindang. They also required the CCP to win Guomindang approval for any instructions it wanted to give its own members.

In July Guomindang armies began their Northern

Chen Duxiu

Expedition to take over the north of China. Struggle in the countryside erupted as peasants sick of local warlords rose up.

Millions of peasants got organised. By January 1927 there were over 2,000,000 peasants registered in associations in Hunan province.

Peasants scrapped taxes, refused to pay rent and took over land. They abolished the binding of girls’ feet, gambling and opium smoking, set up schools and built roads.

Peasants came to see the world very differently. One report said, “The clay and wood gods have already lost their dignity.”

Guomindang leaders used the peasants, as they had the workers, to boost their position.

As Isaacs put it, “The spontaneous rising of the people gave the Guomindang armies little more to do, often, than occupy territory that had already been secured for them.”

BUT the nationalists also feared the peasant risings. So the CCP member put in charge of agriculture was tasked with controlling them—and peasants were told to only attack those landlords who were “counter-revolutionary”.

Meanwhile Chiang Kai-shek clamped down on workers in Guangdong. In August he outlawed all “labour disturbances”.

By early 1927 the Guomindang was moving towards Shanghai. Unions organised an armed rising to welcome it. But the nationalists delayed—allowing warlords to attack and kill hundreds of workers.

When they finally arrived, workers’ militias took control of the city. The Guomindang demanded they hand over their arms and return to work—and the CCP backed it up.

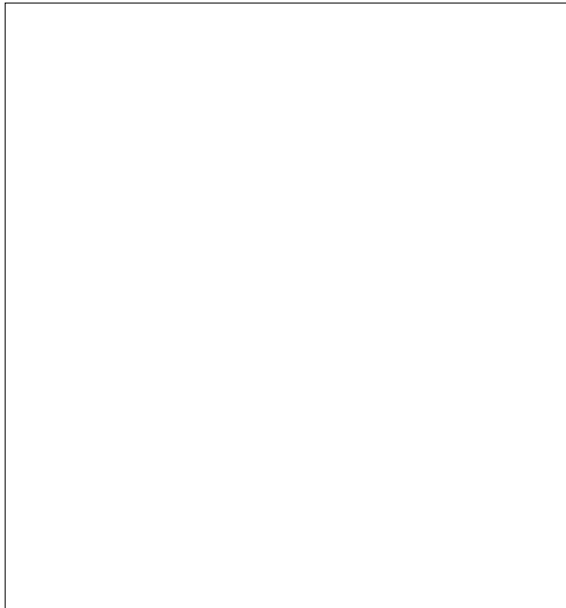
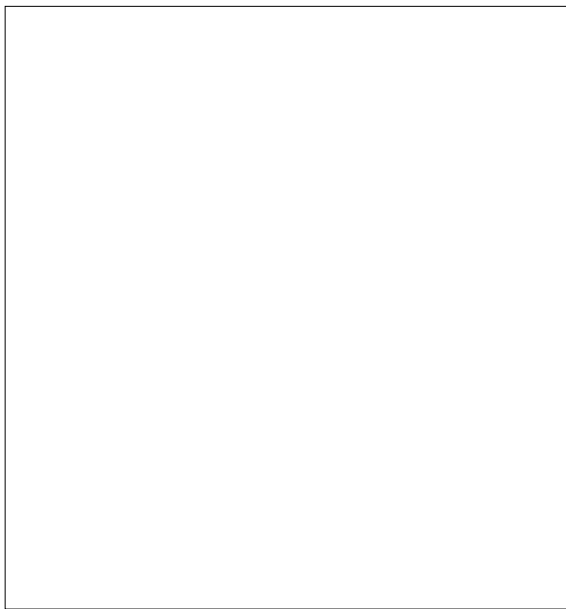
Nationalist attacks on the CCP intensified. Thousands of union militants were jailed.

Once the Guomindang had used workers’ and peasants’ struggles to take control it turned on the movement. And this gave the green light to all the old bosses and landlords to go on the offensive.

They closed down factories and shops, refused loans to peasants, created runs on banks and hoarded their cash.

The counter-revolution crushed workers’ and peasants’ organisations. Isaacs wrote, “For the scores killed by the revolution, the reaction took the lives of thousands.”

Landlords executed peasants



WOMEN IN Beijing march demanding the right to vote (top). Guomindang arresting communists in Shanghai during the 1927 crackdown (above)

by beheading, burying alive, shooting, strangling, burning and cutting into pieces.

One reporter wrote some landlords “bound their victims to trees and put them to death with one thousand cuts into which they rubbed sand and salt”.

Trotsky had argued that the CCP should build workers’ councils to take the revolution forward. The potential to do this was there. But revolutionaries failed to organise independently.

Thousands of the party’s new militants and many of its leadership were killed.

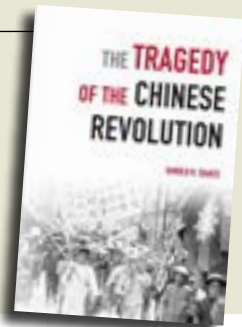
The experience made Chen Duxiu become a supporter of Trotsky. The Stalinist leadership blamed for him the failures that had come from following Stalin’s advice.

The defeat led the CCP to retreat from organising workers and concentrate on military struggles and the peasantry.

READ MORE

- **The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution** by Harold Isaacs £16.99
- **Leon Trotsky on China** by Leon Trotsky £26 marxists.org/archive/trotsky/china
- **Memoirs of a Chinese Revolutionary 1919-1949** by Wang Fan-hsi £25

- **The Mandate of Heaven** by Nigel Harris £13.99
- Available at **Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop**. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



FOCUS ON IRAN

The West’s weakness gives Iranian workers a break

Iranian socialist Nima Soltanzadeh welcomes an historic deal to end economic sanctions that only helped the regime

CHEERING CROWDS in Iran’s capital Tehran welcomed the historic deal with world powers on Iran’s nuclear capabilities this week.

The deal lifts the shadow of war and the burden of sanctions on ordinary Iranians.

It signals the weakening of US imperialism in the Middle East—and opens up possibilities for resistance in Iran. Both the Iranian state and the Western powers made major concessions.

The Iranian government agreed to limit its enrichment of uranium for eight years and to allow intense inspections for 25 years. Even military sites will be open to inspectors if they present “legitimate” reasons.

On their side, US, Britain, France and Germany have acknowledged Iran’s right to have a nuclear programme and they will lift the sanctions that have hit Iran’s oil industry and banking system.

Opposition

These concessions have led to opposition on both sides.

In Iran, conservatives with vested interests in the military and state-owned businesses fear losing influence as their perverted version of anti-imperialism is undermined.

Meanwhile Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu accused US president Barack Obama of making “a mistake of historic proportions”.

Hawks in Washington still want regime change in Iran to remove what they see as an obstacle to US power.

But Obama’s shift from confrontation to containment of Iran is a way of coming to terms with the weakening of US power in the Middle East.

Having lost the authoritarian Shah of Iran as an ally in the 1979 Iranian revolution, the US opposed the Islamic Republic that replaced him.

It sided with Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein after he

BACK STORY

A deal this week ended the stalemate over Iran’s nuclear programme

● Both sides made major concessions—especially the US rulers who had hoped to topple Iran’s regime

● Encirclement by the West’s wars in Iraq and Afghanistan drove Iran’s nuclear ambitions

● Elites have avoided the effects of sanctions while using them to shore up support for the regime

attacked Iran in September 1980, providing military information and eventually attacking the Iranian navy.

US president Bill Clinton imposed sanctions on Iran in the 1990s. When Iran’s reformist president Mohammad Khatami sought closer links with the West, US president George W Bush put Iran in his “axis of evil”.

US troops occupied Iran’s neighbours Afghanistan and Iraq, and Bush threatened regime change and war.

“**The US was the biggest loser—and ordinary Iranians the biggest winner**”

The Iranian military became intensely worried about a possible invasion.

The Iranian state isn’t developing nuclear weapons. It pursued nuclear capability as a strategic asset to guarantee its security from the West.

Loser

The biggest loser from the deal is US imperialism. The biggest winners are ordinary Iranians.

Politicians and the media in the West pretended that economic sanctions targeted Iran’s rulers.

But the sanctions only gave Iran’s rulers the opportunity to strengthen the military, increase repression and do business through the black market and state channels.

Ordinary Iranians lost their jobs and paid the price for inflation.

The lifting of the sanctions will lessen their economic suffering. But it won’t solve the problems of corruption and neoliberal policies.

The deal will also undermine the power of the conservatives. But change will not come by itself. Workers, students and women’s rights activists will have to seize the new opportunities to build collective resistance.

Teachers’ protests in recent months have shown the way in Iran.

And acts of solidarity from trade unionists across the world demanding the release of their arrested leader Esmail Abdi show how socialists elsewhere can help.

Cuts threaten GPs' surgeries

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

UP TO 140 of London's 1,400 general practitioner (GP) surgeries face the threat of closure during the next three years, local health committees have warned.

This could leave hundreds of thousands of people without access to GPs.

More practices have closed every year since 2011.

East London GP Kambiz Boomla told Socialist Worker, "Lots of our practices are under the cosh because of budget cuts.

"The proportion of the NHS budget going to GPs is down from 12 percent to just 9 percent."

Crisis

The broader NHS staffing crisis is already making it harder to see GPs.

Kambiz said, "It's very hard to recruit new doctors and nurses. So staffing pressures mean a choice is between cutting quality—and that's not what we became GPs for—or cutting waiting lists.

"Most practices are being forced to stop registering new patients.

"They are looking carefully at their catchment area and trying to

UP TO 2,000 people marched in Henley-upon-Thames, Oxfordshire, last Saturday against bed cuts at Townlands Hospital

square the circle."

These pressures are forcing many doctors to retire early.

The attack on surgeries is also linked to NHS boss Simon Stevens' "five year plan" for the NHS and the privatisation drive.

Kambiz said, "This financial pressure is coupled with a move

to transfer more care from hospitals to GPs. That can be a better way of providing services—but the problem is the money isn't there.

"It's the same as with social care. Yes, we want to have home visits—but not ones that are only 15 minutes."

Stevens' plan includes

turning practices into "multispecialty community providers". While run by doctors, these could easily be bought out by privateers such as United Health and Virgin.

And Kambiz warned, "With the current funding formula, the money is going into the more affluent areas."

PRIVATISATION

Bosses are beaten in Bolton

IN A blow to privatisation in the NHS, health workers and campaigners in Bolton have beaten bosses' plans to privatise psychotherapy services.

The clinical commissioning group dropped the tender process last week, after suspending it last December following a mass campaign.

One of the campaign organisers Karen Reissmann told Socialist Worker, "This shows we can stop the privatisation and the market that costs the NHS almost £23 billion a year. That's enough to stop all the current cuts.

"This shows you can fight and win."

**JOIN THE
SOCIALIST
WORKERS
PARTY**

- ☐ **Yes, I'd like to be a member**
☐ **Please send me some information**

Name

Address

.....

Postcode

Phone

Email

Return to SWP membership department, PO Box 42184,
London SW8 2WD. **Phone** 020 7819 1172

Email membership@swp.org.uk



Subscribe to Socialist Worker

Have Socialist Worker delivered with your post every week for a direct debit of £5 a month

I want to subscribe to Socialist Worker with a monthly direct debit of £5

Name

Address.....

Postcode

E-mail

Phone

I would like ____ extra papers to sell

(this will not be deducted from my bank account)

For official use only—this is not part of the instructions to your bank/building society

Sherborne Publications,
PO Box 42184, London SW8 2WD



Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by direct debit

Originator identification no. 9 7 3 3 5 5

Our reference no.

.....

1. Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To the manager:

Bank/building society

Address

Postcode

2. Name(s) of account holder(s)

.....

3. Branch sort code

4. Bank/building society account no.

5. Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay Sherborne Publications direct debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the direct debit guarantee.

I understand that this instruction may remain with Sherborne Publications and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank or building society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions from some types of account



Direct debit guarantee

■ This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.

■ If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit Sherborne Publications will notify you ten working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Sherborne Publications to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.

■ If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by Sherborne Publications or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.

■ If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Sherborne Publications asks you to.

■ You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

Socialist Worker Subscriptions

Post PO Box 42184, London SW8 2WD

Phone 020 7819 1171

Web www.socialistworker.co.uk

KEPT HOMELESS BY RACIST RULES

A homeless London-born mother and her two children were denied help by Southwark Council, using racist immigration status rules, uncovered by **Sadie Robinson**

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL has said a homeless mother and her two children are “not eligible” for housing assistance because it says she doesn’t have a right to be in Britain.

Claire was born in Lewisham, south east London. She told Socialist Worker, “They talk about me having ‘claimed’ I was born in Britain. It hurts. Why do I have to confirm my nationality?”

“I think I’m in a state of shock. I don’t sleep anymore and I’m not eating properly.”

Claire had lived in a two-bedroom ground floor flat in Peckham, south London since June 2009. But her landlord evicted her in January this year.

“I went to the council’s homeless unit,” she explained. “I believed that they would help me.

Eligible

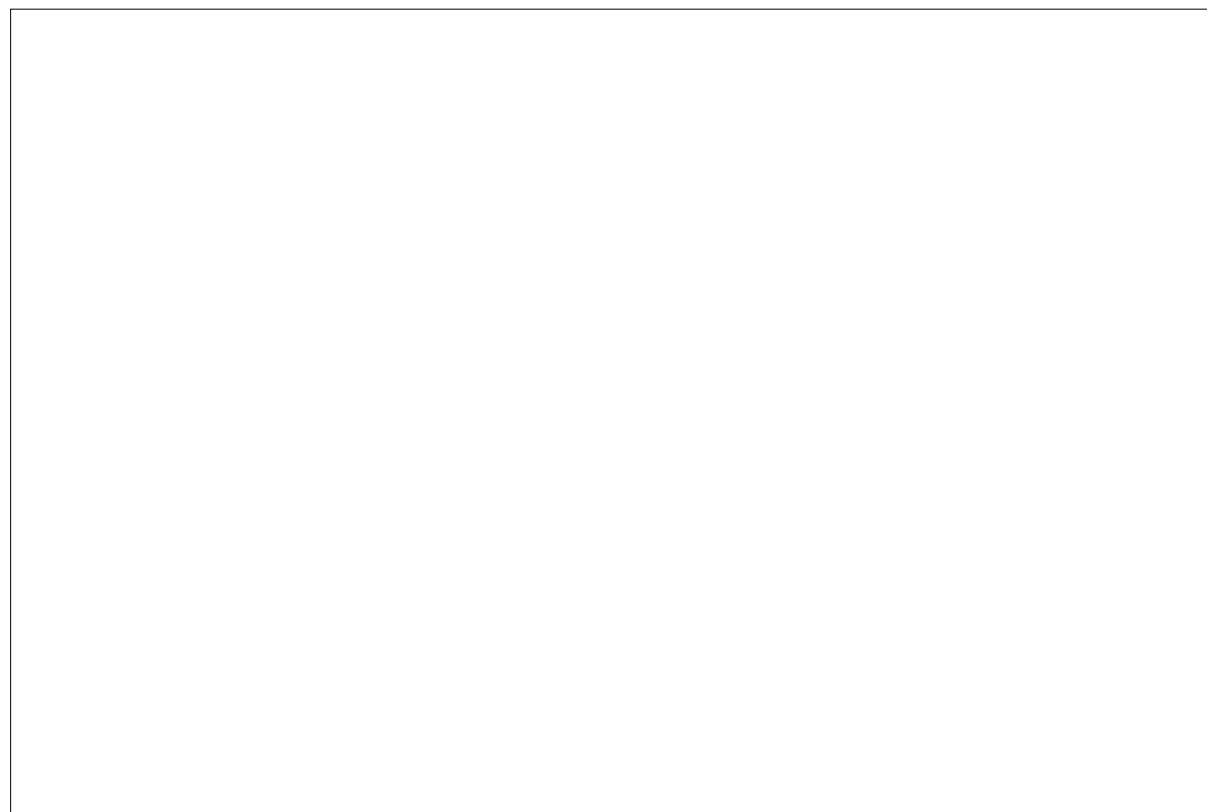
“They told me that I’m not eligible for help and the reason is that I’m illegally in the UK.”

The decision is based on the fact that Claire’s mother was born in Jamaica.

Claire said her mother came to Britain in the 1970s when she was eight years old and has indefinite leave to remain.

The council said it had contacted the Home Office, and said it had no records of either of them applying for leave to remain in the UK (see box, below).

Claire turned to social services for help. They found her a single room in a unit above a pub. She has lived there with two of her children, aged six and two, since January.



CLAIRE WAS born in south east London’s Lewisham Hospital

Many of her possessions are still in storage.

“I feel like I’m in prison,” she said. “There are 14 rooms and we have to share a kitchen and bathroom.

“I’m really upset and angry. I’m trapped. I need to think positively but it’s hard when it seems like there’s no way out.”

The council ruled that Claire’s

mother did not have leave to remain in Britain at the time of her birth.

In a letter to Claire it said, “You are therefore considered as a Jamaican national who does not have any leave to remain in the UK and therefore you are a person subject to immigration control who is ineligible for housing assistance.”


Her birth certificate confirms that

she was born in Lewisham Hospital. Her children’s birth certificates state their mother’s place of birth as Lewisham, London.

The case shows up the madness of the immigration panic whipped up by the right. As Claire put it, “You’re guilty until proven innocent. The system is not set up to help us.”

Claire is a pseudonym

Breach of human rights?

 **BRITAIN IS** in the grip of a growing housing crisis.

But the problem isn’t that there are “too many” people or not enough homes. It’s that the misery it causes is Tory policy.

Some 60,940 homeless households were living in temporary accommodation by September last year.

Yet there were over 635,000 empty homes in England alone.

But many people can’t afford the rents private landlords demand.

Others lie derelict as



Demolished: Heygate estate in Southwark

landlords or councils refuse to invest in them.


And more people are at the mercy of private landlords.

Governments have refused to build more council housing.

Instead, they’re pushing councils to demolish or sell off their stock for “redevelopment.”

The situation is so dire that charities have said the British government has breached its United Nations human rights commitment to provide decent housing.

Home Office denies migrants access to services

 **CLAIRE WAS** refused housing assistance after Southwark council said the Home Office had no record of her mother applying for leave to remain in Britain.

Yet the Home Office does not keep records indefinitely.

It told Socialist Worker that records are logged on electronic systems and that “electronic records began in 2002”.

It isn’t clear how records prior to 2002 are

maintained.

The Home Office also confirmed to Socialist Worker that most applicants’ personal files are kept “for 15 years from the date of last action”.

Exceptions

There are some exceptions to this rule.

The record will be kept for 25 years if a person is a national of a country that currently requires a visa to enter Britain and

has indefinite leave to remain.

Similarly, if a person has acquired British citizenship, the Home Office will keep the record for 25 years from the date citizenship was granted.

The exceptions also apply to people with criminal convictions.

So if a person is suspected or convicted of an offence with a sentence of 12 months or more, the record will be kept until they’re 75.

If the sentence was for 30 months or longer, the record would be kept until the person died.

Request

The Home Office also confirmed that councils wishing to check an individual’s status could submit an information request.

It said, “The Home Office then assesses whether the request is appropriate and then aims to provide this

information via secure email within five working days.”

So where the Home Office deems the request not “appropriate” or no longer holds records no information will be given.

Socialist Worker thinks that everyone should have the right to access services and benefits, regardless of their immigration status.

Yet this set-up potentially snatches that right from untold numbers of people.

IN BRIEF

Universal Credit staff set to strike

WORKERS AT Universal Credit service centres in Glasgow and Bolton were set to strike on Monday and Tuesday of next week.

The members of the PCS union voted by 84 percent to strike over changes to working arrangements.

An overtime ban was set to start next Wednesday, ending on 18 August.

ITV workers accept new pay settlement

WORKERS AT ITV have ended their dispute with management after accepting a deal.

Members of the NUJ, Bectu and Unite unions held a one-day strike in May demanding an increase on a 2 percent pay deal.

The settlement involves a 2.2 percent pay deal for 2016 for those earning under £60,000. It also gives two extra days leave for workers with more than five years' tenure and an increase in the redundancy pay cap.

DVLA call centre ballot over pay

PCS UNION members at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency are balloting for strikes. Workers face pay cuts after bosses slashed allowances for weekend working. They also introduced inferior contracts for new starters.

Arrests after demo at Israeli arms firm

POLICE ARRESTED several activists during protests against Israeli arms manufacturer Elbit last week.

Protesters targeted Elbit factories in Tamworth and Shenstone in the Midlands, and Broadstairs in Kent. Those arrested at Shenstone have been released on bail and will find out whether or not they will be charged on 31 July.

NHS vultures face opposition in Brum

AROUND 100 demonstrators protested outside the Procurement for Health conference at Birmingham International Convention Centre on Thursday of last week.

The conference was a gathering of private providers circling to grab NHS services. The protest was organised by 38 Degrees.

Demand an end to refugee detention

DEMONSTRATORS marched around Harmondsworth immigration detention centre last Saturday calling for its closure. The protest called by the Movement for Justice demanded the closure of all such centres.

●Surround Yarl's Wood protest on 8 August on fb.me/1CzIXvi

FIGHTING THE CUTS



RESISTING THE bailiffs in Bromley

PICTURE: SHEILA AMROUCHE

PRIVATISATION

New gallery boss may face indefinite strike

by NICK CLARK

WORKERS AT the National Gallery in central London plan to walk out for three days every week until August, when they will hold a consultative ballot on an all-out strike.

The PCS union members are fighting gallery bosses' plans to privatise staff and against the victimisation of union rep Candy Udwin.

They began the first of the 72-hour strikes on Tuesday of this week and were set to lobby a meeting of trustees on Thursday between 1-2pm at the gallery.

Walkout

The next walkout is set for between Monday and Wednesday of next week—a lobby is planned outside an appeal hearing for Candy on Wednesday 22 July, 8-9am, at the gallery.

The appeal hearing was originally to be chaired by National Gallery director



Strikers united against privatisation on budget day

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

Nick Penny. But the gallery removed him as chair after an employment tribunal granted Candy interim relief last month.

The workers completed their 46th strike day when they struck on the day of the Tories' budget last week and joined other strikers from Barnet and Bromley (see page 19).

Protesters mobilise and stop evictions

CAMPAIGNERS IN both Bromley, south London, and Glasgow stopped two evictions in the past week.

Thirty people turned out to stop Paul Rooney and his disabled daughter from being evicted from their home in Bromley for council tax arrears.

They stood outside the house while bailiffs, locksmiths and estate agents arrived to repossess the

home that Paul owns.

Supporters blame the private company Liberata for the arrears Paul faces.

"This is an absolute example of why privatisation doesn't work," Bromley Unite union branch secretary told Socialist Worker at Paul's home.

In Glasgow solidarity from friends, neighbours and activists helped stop disabled Catherine Nicoletti and her

daughter being evicted from their home of 18 years.

Catherine had fallen behind in rent after a series of Tory attacks on her benefits. Her neighbours raised money to repay it.

Some 15 protesters including four striking homelessness caseworkers (see page 19) turned out to block the eviction.

Thanks to Sheila Amrouche and Josh Brown

MINERS

Durham Gala still matters

SOME 150,000 people filled the streets of Durham last Saturday for the 131st Durham Miners Gala.

The procession was huge—starting early in the morning and continuing until around 2pm. Speakers included a number of trade union general secretaries.

All four Labour leadership candidates were at the event—but only left wing candidate Jeremy

Corbyn was allowed to speak at the rally.

Dave Lowdon from Bishop Auckland in Durham was at the Gala. He told Socialist Worker that there was a lot of support among the marchers for Corbyn.

He added, "There's been a lot of stuff in the local press about whether the Gala is still relevant. But the fact that 150,000 people turned out shows that it clearly still is."

CLIMATE

Another runway is just Plane Stupid

A SMALL group of activists chained themselves together on the northern runway of London Heathrow airport on Monday morning of this week—in opposition to a third runway being built.

The action by campaign group Plane Stupid caused disruption to flights and some cancellations.

Even Tory MPs in west London and the Thames Valley fear that disruption and pollution would cost them votes. But they back expanding London Gatwick.

This would still increase greenhouse gases emissions and fuel climate change.

FOOD WORKERS

New offer at Gunstones

A 48-HOUR strike set for this week at Gunstones bakery in Sheffield was called off after a new offer from bosses.

Workers are being balloted on a 3.5 percent increase.

Bfawu union members struck for two days last month against an imposed pay freeze after 426 sackings.

Bosses initially refused to make an offer on pay because it was costing them money to pay off the staff they were making redundant.

Union officials recommend rejection.

POST

Workers rally in London

THE CWU postal workers' union launched a campaign against the effects of privatisation in the postal industry on Thursday of last week.

Some 500 CWU reps attended the People's Post launch rally in central London. Speakers included CWU general secretary Dave Ward, Matt Wrack from the FBU union and left wing columnist Owen Jones.

They marched on the government's department for business.

Tory chancellor George Osborne plans to finish this year the Royal Mail selloff he began in 2013.

The People's Post will be a publicity campaign. But Ward also said there



On the rally last week

PICTURE: GUY SWALLMAN

would be industrial action if workers' terms and conditions were attacked.

CWU rep Paul Garraway told Socialist Worker, "We need to get the members involved in the campaign—and we need to get to the public as well. It has to be more than a tweet."

OBITUARY

Martin Walsh
1948-2015

MARTIN WALSH died last week from cancer.

He was an inspirational teacher and trade unionist who fought all his life for a better world.

Martin joined the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) in south London in the early 1990s, while training to be a teacher at South Bank University.

Along with his partner Claire Walsh (then Hill) he threw himself into anti-fascist work.

Comrades remember "a warm, witty and intelligent man, a great raconteur", and that "Martin hadn't entered left wing politics in a straightforward way, coming



Martin Walsh

as he did from the transport police.

"He was a fiercely independent thinker, who really had to be convinced about a political argument or course of action. But he was someone you had enormous political trust in."

Martin drifted out of the SWP when he and Claire

moved up to the Blackpool area but he continued to be active. He threw his energies into building the National Union of Teachers (NUT) in Lancashire, and challenging racism and fascism.

He always had a wry smile when he knew he was right. He had that smile when we disrupted the Nazi BNP's conference in Blackpool only a few years ago.

This year, Martin and Claire jointly won the NUT's "Officer of the Year award" for their part in building the union and strikes against the Tories.

Despite his chemotherapy he remained a regular at street stalls.

Our deepest sympathies go to Claire, and to Martin's daughters Bella and Lottie.

Lee Billingham

COUNCIL WORKERS

Coordinated to stop service privatisation

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

STRIKES AGAINST Tory privatisation at two London councils grew in strength as council workers walked out on Wednesday of last week.

They chose to coordinate their action with the day the Tories announced an emergency budget.

Unison union members at Barnet Council had over 100 strikers out on picket lines at key workplaces in the north London borough.

The strike was part of a long battle against Tory council bosses' plans to outsource services and 80 percent of jobs.

More children's centres were closed and more schools catering staff were out than in previous strikes.

Involved

Over half the lorries at the council's refuse depot didn't move. This is a major development considering most workers at the depot were not involved last time round.

Council leaders plan another wave of mass outsourcing of services and staff.

Unison branch chair Helen Davies spoke to Socialist Worker in a personal capacity. She said, "Council leaders



BUDGET DAY strikers in Barnet wear George Osborne masks

should get the message that we don't want privatisation."

Helen said there will be more action. "We will be going all-out to build a local march in September over the selloff and closure of libraries.

"We're following that up with more strikes and will look to coordinate again with other workers."

Bromley Council workers

in south London were also out on strike on budget day over similar plans to the Tories in Barnet. They're also fighting an attack on the council trade unions' facility time.

The Unite union has already led prolonged action among its members at the council but this time they were joined by colleagues in Unison.

One Bromley Council

worker told Socialist Worker, "We are defending hard-won rights. There is a real danger that embezzling our taxes and sticking them into private shareholders' pockets is not fought.

"People think what we have can't be changed but it could all disappear fast.

"I don't want future generations asking what the public sector was—it's that serious."

GLASGOW

Glasgow strikers debate council bosses' new offer

A NEW offer from council bosses was being debated by a mass meeting of Glasgow homelessness caseworkers as Socialist Worker went to press on Tuesday of this week.

Workers entered the 16th week of an all-out strike demanding to be paid the same as other council workers doing similar jobs.

Previous deals have been unanimously rejected by the strikers as divisive and not meeting their demands for everyone to be regraded.

Glasgow's Labour council is hard-nosed and has only offered to regrade some caseworkers.

Bosses are desperate not to

lose to a group of determined workers that have exposed just how wedded to austerity council leaders are.

Management is anxious to end the dispute and get the caseworkers back to work as the homeless service buckles under the strain of the strike.

Unity and solidarity has got the strikers this far and forced bosses to concede the central issue of regrading.

Although trust in the bosses is rightly in short supply workers could soon be considering an offer to settle the whole dispute.

See **Glasgow Homeless Caseworkers Strike** on Facebook

DONCASTER

Sweeping vote to act

AN INDICATIVE ballot of workers at Doncaster Council in the Unison, Unite and GMB unions has moved them closer to industrial action.

The workers—including street cleaners, road-workers and horticulturists—are angry at attempts to change shifts and other conditions.

They have voted to move to a ballot for action. Unison and Unite each got 95 percent yes votes on a 97 percent turnout. The GMB got a 90 percent yes vote on a 75 percent turnout. **Jim Board, branch secretary, Doncaster Unison (pc)**

MIGRANT WORKERS

Support the Sotheby's 4

MORE THAN 24,000 people have signed a petition calling for the reinstatement of four sacked workers who worked for subcontractor Servest at Sotheby's in central London.

The four were told they were no longer wanted after joining a protest outside the auction house's premises calling for improved sick pay and no victimisation of union activists earlier this month.

Sign the petition at chn.ge/1LaYVNL
Demonstrate—Thu 16 Jul, 6pm, Benetton, Oxford Circus. March to Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond St, W1A 2AA

TRANSPORT

Union suspends Scottish ferry action

THE RMT union suspended a strike by CalMac and Argyll Ferries workers planned for Friday of last week.

Workers want protections over jobs, terms and conditions, and pensions.

The dispute revolves around the tendering of Clyde and Hebrides ferry services by the Scottish National Party (SNP) Scottish government.

There are fears that whoever gets the contract there will be attacks on workers.

The union suspended action after the SNP agreed to delay the publication of the Draft Invitation to Tender until the end of the month. Talks are set to take place and be concluded by 24 July.

A FIVE-DAY strike by engineers at Southern Rail was suspended after



CalMac tender is delayed

a "breakthrough in last minute talks" according to their RMT union.

A joint resolution from RMT and management stated forthcoming pay talks would include an agreement on a 37 hour week by May 2017.

No public statements had been made on imposed rosters or on the threat to a long term agreement as Socialist Worker went to press. It protects workers'

rights if a depot is closed or there are job cuts.

THE RMT union said its dispute at Northern Rail "cannot be progressed with any hope of success" after bosses used anti-union laws to challenge the union's ballot and seek damages last week.

This was on advice from the union's lawyers. Some 80 percent of station staff and guards voted to strike.

A NEW deal has been offered to Scotrail workers by bosses at Abellio after an overtime ban led to the company cancelling a third of Sunday services.

The deal includes a 2.5 percent increase on salary and allowances from 1 April this year, plus backdated payments for Sunday working and extra staff at rural depots.

EDUCATION

No to forced redundancies

WORKERS AT Bradford College struck against compulsory redundancies on Thursday of last week. It was the second strike by the UCU union members.

The union wants bosses to rule out compulsory redundancies in their plans to make "savings".

LEWISHAM & SOUTHWARK

Lobby over site closure

Workers at Lewisham and Southwark College were set to lobby a governors' meeting on Tuesday of this week.

They are fighting plans to impose job cuts and close an entire site of the college in Camberwell, south London. Facebook: Defend Lewisham Southwark College

UNITE UNION RULES CONFERENCE



Keeping within the law allowed BA cabin crew to be defeated in 2010

Union votes for unlawful acts of civil disobedience

THE UNITE union changed its constitution to allow civil disobedience in a vote at its rules conference in Brighton on Wednesday of last week.

Delegates voted overwhelmingly to delete the words "so far as may be lawful" from the union's aims.

The amendment was unopposed, and moved by the union's executive.

General secretary Len McCluskey's slammed the government imposing class

prejudice with repressive new anti-union laws.

Existing laws—which the Labour government did nothing to repeal—have been used to stop several strikes, including by British Airways cabin crew.

They'd voted by more than 90 percent for strikes on more than a 90 percent turnout.

This call from the top opens the door for activists in the union to try and turn those words into action.

Gwyneth Powell-Davies



PROTESTERS STAGE a 'tug of class war' against the bosses and bankers in Portsmouth in protest at the Tory budget

PICTURE: JON WOODS

PROTESTS OVER TORIES' BUDGET

AS TORY slasher **Iain Duncan Smith** cheered **chancellor George Osborne's attacks on the poor** on Wednesday of last week, outside disabled protesters were blocking roads.

Osborne couldn't appear at the gates of Downing Street because Disabled People Against Cuts (Dpac) protesters were bombarding it with balls shouting "balls to the budget".

One protester yelled "He must have slipped out through the sewer with the rats—sorry, rats, that you had to have such company."

A national day of protests called by the People's Assembly saw people take to the streets across Britain.

In London it coincided with a day of coordinated strikes (see pages 8 & 19).

Some 800 people joined a People's Assembly evening demonstration outside parliament.

East London council worker Amy was one of them. She told Socialist Worker, "I see a lot of people who are struggling—they're going to be badly affected by this budget."

"It demonstrates how far the Tories will go to fuel the rich to the point of people's lives being destroyed."

Protesters staged a "die-in" to represent the people who have died as a result of benefit sanctions, and released several black balloons.

Police stole protesters' megaphones.

Confiscated

And when they confiscated a sound system, the crowd followed them.

Hundreds sat down in the road demanding that police give the sound system back.

At the Dpac protest wheelchair user Martin from DPAC Suffolk told Socialist Worker, "Disabled people are going to be hit hard again."

"We were hit hard last time, and severely disabled people hit hardest of all."

"It's not fair. The bankers and the big corporations should get hit, not us."

Some dropped a "Balls to the Budget" banner opposite parliament.

Inspired by the rejection of austerity in Greece they chanted, "They say cut back, we say OXI."



A disabled protester in London

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

Protesters shouting 'balls to the budget' bombarded Downing Street

Another 200 people protested in Newcastle.

Delegates at the Unite union's rules conference joined the demonstration in Brighton. In Birmingham some 250 people held a lively march through the town centre.

At the protest of about 60 people in Oxford, a 100 percent vote for strikes against contractor Carillion by hospital porters was announced.

People cheered calls to show solidarity on their picket lines.

The protest in Portsmouth, called by Portsmouth Against Cuts Together, took the form of street theatre.

Some 60 people joined the "tug of class war" between the 1 percent and the 99 percent—beating Cameron, a banker, the queen and German chancellor Angela Merkel.

In Manchester up to 300 people chanted, sang and listened to speakers denounce Osborne for attacking the poor and helping the rich.

Vulnerable

Sam from Manchester People's Assembly told Socialist Worker, "The savage cuts are hitting the most vulnerable in society."

"People have got to start mobilising and they should come to Manchester during the Tory Party conference to show their anger."

Activists are preparing for a week of resistance at the Tory Party conference in Manchester in October.

The TUC has called a national demonstration there for Sunday 4 October.

And at a national meeting last Saturday People's Assembly activists discussed protesting at London's Euston station and Manchester Piccadilly to target Tory delegates.

Every activist and trade unionist needs to organise transport to the demo now.

Simon Hall from North Tyneside People's Assembly told Socialist Worker, "We need a kaleidoscope of resistance—all roads lead to Manchester."

"We could shut this conference down."

Thanks to Jon Woods, Martin Empson and Ian McKendrick

On other pages
Slasher Osborne's budget attacks >>> **Pages 10&11**

MARCH ON THE TORIES
Sunday 4 October,
10am, Manchester
Organised by the TUC, supported by the People's Assembly.
tuc.org.uk
thepeoplesassembly.org.uk